

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 97-8-4**

Date Prepared: July 31, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: August 4, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: August 4, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Clark Fork and Blackfoot Docket D97.7.124 - Discuss notice of application and jurisdictional defect; dismissal of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's application (8/5/97)
2. USWC Docket D96.12.220 - Discuss Consumer Counsel's motion to place this docket on hold (8/5/97)
3. Citizens Docket D97.3.48 - Address Citizens' Motion for Reconsideration of Final Order approving implementation plan (8/5/97)
4. USWC Docket D97.7.116 - General discussion, review answer, update as needed (8/5/97)
5. Energy Utility Service Standards Docket L-97.6.4-RUL - Discuss draft rules, action as necessary (8/5/97)
6. MPC/SB396 Rules Docket D96.2.22/L-97.1-RUL - Discuss and act on draft rules implementing SB396, other matters as necessary (8/5/97)

7. Big Sky Tech vs USWC Dockets D97.3.37 and D97.3.51 - Give a heads up on the procedure and hearing date; also ask if the Commission will hear the complaints or an examiner; if the Commission, a quorum or all five (8/5/97)
8. PTI/Digitrex Plus Docket N97.4.58 - Review and act on tariff filing (8/5/97)
9. USWC Docket D97.7.125 - Discuss the filing and interim measures (8/5/97)
10. Weekly AND Monthly Scheduling Meetings - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. - Docket N97.7.123 (Vicki)

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana has filed an Application for Approval of Detariffed New Services - Customized Local Area Signaling Service (CLASS).

2. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.7.122 (Vicki)

MCI has filed changes to its tariff to enable customers of MCI's interstate offering of Asia Plan to receive Option Y (homeMCI One) usage rates for intrastate calls made under that plan; and to make a text change, revising the tariff page number from revised page 1 to revised page 2 for MCI transmittal number 97-11.

3. MDU Resources Group, Inc. - Docket D97.7.121 (Dennis)

On July 14, 1997, MDU filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$60,000,000 of Common Stock within a two year period in one or more transactions. The use of this stock will be for the acquisition of a business and/or its assets and may be issued directly to a seller. Alternatively, the additional Common Stock may be issued and sold in one or more public offerings. A Default Order has been drafted.

4. MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D97.7.132 (Dennis)

On July 25, 1997, MPC filed an application seeking authority to enter into an operating lease with respect to the acquisition and installation of an automated meter reading system. The total cost including installation costs and transaction costs will not exceed \$20,000,000. MPC will retain the tax benefits associated with ownership of the assets, including depreciation and interest deductions. A Default Order has been drafted.

5. MONTANA POWER COMPANY-Docket D97.7.90 (Denise)

The Commission has received Petitions for Late Intervention from the following:

Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership (YELP)
Montana Society of Association Executives.
Energy West Resources, Inc.
David Ewer

Applicants for intervention will not delay the proceedings or enlarge the issues. The late interventions resulted from a misperception of the preliminary notice of the filing with the option to file a notice of intention to intervene in order to receive a copy of the transition plan filings promptly. Staff recommends approval of the late interventions.

6. PacifiCorp-Docket D97.7.91 (Denise)

The Commission has received Petitions for Late Intervention from the following:

Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership (YELP)

Applicants for intervention will not delay the proceedings or enlarge the issues. The late interventions resulted from a misperception of the preliminary notice of the filing with the option to file a notice of intention to intervene in order to receive a copy of the transition plan filings promptly. Staff recommends approval of the late interventions.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.6.98 (Kate)

On July 21, 1997, Valley Telecommunications filed to revise its payphone tariff filing of June 11, 1997. The company had originally requested to withdraw its Paystation Service and Customer-Owned Coin-Operated Telephone Service offerings and replace them with Payphone Provider Service on a detariffed basis. With the revised filing, the company requests the same changes to its payphone tariff, but the prices will remain tariffed.

2. PROJECT TELEPHONE CO. - Docket N97.6.99 (Kate)

On July 21, 1997, Project Telephone filed to revise its payphone tariff filing of June 11, 1997. The company had originally requested to withdraw its Paystation Service and Customer-Owned Coin-Operated Telephone Service offerings and replace them with Payphone Provider Service on a detariffed basis. With the revised filing, the company requests the same changes to its payphone tariff, but the prices will remain tariffed.

3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.7.133 (Kate)

On July 28, 1997, Citizens Communications filed to remove the end user common line rate from its Montana Access Service Tariff. This rate would then be found only in the company's FCC Tariff No. 1.

4. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - Docket N97.7.130 (Bonnie)

On July 24, 1997 Sprint Communications Company filed changes to their price list deleting text and adding verbiage to PONCARD Service which explains how calls will be rated when Sprint enters into an agreement with a reseller to serve as their alternate long distance carrier in regions where the reseller cannot provide service.

5. MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket N97.7.126 (Will)

On July 18, 1997, MPC filed its annual updates to the avoided cost rate schedules QFLT-1 and STPP-1 to comply with Order 5017, Docket 83.1.2.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-8-11

Docket N97.6.98 VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Kate)
Docket N97.6.99 PROJECT TELEPHONE CO. (Kate)
Docket N97.7.133 CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS (Kate)
Docket N97.7.130 SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (Bonnie)
Docket N97.7.126 MONTANA POWER COMPANY (Will)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N97.7.130 Sprint Communications Co - Miscellaneous text changes to FONCARD service
N97.7.131 Sprint Communications Co - Payphone tariff
D97.7.132 MPC - Financing lease with respect to the acquisition and installation of an automated meter reading system
N97.7.133 Citizens Communications Co - Revise access service tariff/end user common line